

Scolopax saturata is confined to the high mountains of Java; it has been found only on Mount Prahu (7000 feet high) and on Mount Salak, where, according to Dr. Vorderman, Mr. Goldman killed one specimen on the 10th October, 1882. I have failed to ascertain in which part of Java Boiè obtained the two specimens in the Leyden Museum. Most likely from the same source is the specimen in the Museum of Turin.

SCOLOPAX ROSENBERGI, Schleg.

Scolopax rosenbergi, Schl. Ned. Tijdschr. Dierk. iv. p. 54 (1871) (Nova Guinea) (type examined); Rosenb. Reist. naar Geelvinksb. p. 144 (1875); Gieb. Thes. Orn. iii. p. 467 (1877); Rosenb. Malay Archip. pp. 563, 595 (1879); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xviii. p. 331, n. 48 (1882); id. Orn. Pap. e Mol. iii. p. 235 (1882); Guillem. P. Z. S. 1885, p. 665 (♀, Arfak Mountains); Seeb. Ibis, 1886, p. 128.

Scolopax saturata, part., Seeb. Ibis, 1887, p. 283; id. Geogr. Distr. Charadr. p. 506 (partim) (1882).

Scolopax S. saturatae, Horsf., similis, sed nigricantior et pectore medio purius albo, colli præsertim antici fasciis fuscis magis arcuatis, abdominis fasciis transversis albis vix rufescentibus, remigibus primariis fere omnino fusco-nigricantibus, nonnullis in pogonio externo, apicem versus, vix rufo maculatis, tectricibus remigum primariarum fusco-nigricantibus, fere immaculatis, et subalaribus fusco-nigris vix fusco fasciatis, diversa. Long. tot. circa 300 mm., al. 158-154 mm., caud. 59-54 mm.; rostr. 84-74 mm.; tarsi 38-35 mm.

This bird has been only found in the north-west part of New Guinea, and all the three specimens known were collected on the Arfak Mountains.

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. *Allen on the Birds of the American Museum of Natural History.*

[Visitors' Guide to the Collection of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. J. A. Allen, Curator. 8vo. New York: 1888.]

Those of our readers who have not been to America may require to be informed that the American Museum of Natural History is in New York, and is, next to that of the U.S. National Museum at Washington, we suppose, the most extensive in the country. The series exhibited in the "Bird-Hall," we are told in Mr. Allen's 'Guide,' numbers about 11,000 specimens. It consists chiefly of three important collections, obtained by purchase, namely:—(1) the Elliot Collection of North-American Birds; (2) the Maximilian Collection, *i. e.*, that of Prince Max. of Neu Wied; and (3) the Verreaux Collection of about 3000 specimens, selected by Mr. Elliot from the stores of that formerly well-known firm of commercial naturalists. Besides this mounted series there is a large series of about 30,000 specimens in skins, made up mainly of:—(1) the Lawrence Collection, lately obtained from our distinguished correspondent, Mr. G. N. Lawrence, which consists of about 12,000 specimens, and the value of which can scarcely be overrated, from its containing all that ornithologist's numerous types; (2) the Elliot Collection of Humming-birds, containing the specimens used by Mr. Elliot in preparing his well-known monograph; (3) the Smith Collection from Matto Grosso, Brazil; and (4) the Scott and Mearns Collection of Arizona birds. We may, indeed, well congratulate Mr. Allen upon the material which he has at his command to work upon.

After this useful preliminary information the Handbook proceeds to give a summary account of the various groups of the order Aves, as illustrated in the American Museum. The arrangement adopted is quite in accordance with the most modern views, and begins with the oldest and lowest types, ending with the Passeres, which are made the 23rd order of the subclass "Eurhipiduræ." The information given appears to be usually accurate, but we observe a slip (p. 43) where the Acromyodian Passeres are identified with the Clamatores, and the Mesomyodians with the Oscines. Nor are we quite prepared to admit that the nests of *Collocalia* are "mixed with algæ," or that the Palamedeidæ "swim well." The 'Guide' closes with an account of the "Bird-groups,"

nearly 40 in number, which adorn the "Bird-Hall," and correspond to the series of mounted groups illustrative of different species well known to us at South Kensington.

2. *Allen on the Flight of Birds.*

[On the Structure of Birds in relation to Flight, with special reference to recent alleged discoveries in the Mechanism of the Wing. By J. A. Allen. Trans. New York Acad. Sci. vii. p. 89.]

Mr. Allen's paper on the much-vexed question of the bird's wing gives a good summary of our knowledge of the subject, but does not, we think, add much to what was previously known. We quite agree with him that "in the present state of avian anatomy it is extremely rash for any one to claim the discovery of a new muscle in the wing or in any part of the bird's body till he has made himself thoroughly familiar with the work of his predecessors"! That there is, however, still work of a very telling description to be done on the bird's wing may be easily seen by reference to Mr. Wray's recently published paper on this subject (P. Z. S. 1887, p. 343), so do not let us discourage any one from taking up the subject.

3, 4. *Barboza du Bocage on Birds from St. Thomas, West Africa.*

[Sur quelques Oiseaux de l'Ile St. Thomé, par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Acad. R. d. Sci. d. Lisboa, Num. xlviii. p. 211.

Oiseaux nouveaux de l'Ile St. Thomé, par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. *Op. cit.* p. 229.]

In the first paper Prof. Barboza du Bocage gives an account of a collection of 13 skins sent from the island of St. Thomas by Mr. F. Newton to the Lisbon Museum. In the second he describes as new *Scops scapulatus*, *Amblyospiza concolor*, and *Columba arquatrix*, var. *thomensis*, based upon specimens received in another collection from the same collector, and adds a list of 24 other species, also represented in the last collection.

5. *Beckham on the Birds of South-western Texas.*

[Observations on the Birds of South-western Texas. By C. W. Beckham. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 633.]

This is a long and apparently valuable paper. Mr. Beckham spent the latter half of December 1886 and the first four months of 1887 collecting and studying the birds in four different localities in South-western Texas, most of his observations, however, having been made at San Antonio. At first he intended to record only the results of his own experience, but subsequently determined to embody in his memoir the notes of other observers in the same district. After preliminary remarks upon the physical features of the four localities, their botany, and the works of previous collectors, amongst which is specially cited Mr. Dresser's paper published in this Journal in 1863, Mr. Beckham gives notes upon the 283 species as yet ascertained to belong to the avifauna of South-western Texas.

6. *Bendire on Polioptila californica.*

[Description of the Nest and Eggs of the Californian Black-capped Gnat-catcher (*Polioptila californica*, Brewster). By Capt. Charles E. Bendire, U.S.A. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 549.]

Capt. Bendire describes the newly-discovered nest and eggs of this species from specimens taken near San Bernardino, Cal. The nest-structure is like that of *P. plumbea* of Arizona, and differs radically from that of the well-known *P. cærulea* of the Eastern U.S.

7. *Bendire on Nests and Eggs from Arizona.*

[Notes on a Collection of Birds' Nests and Eggs from Southern Arizona Territory. By Capt. Charles E. Bendire, U.S.A. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 551.]

Capt. Bendire describes a collection of nests and eggs made by Lieut. H. C. Benson near Fort Huachuca, in S.E. Arizona, about 18 miles from the Mexican boundary. Eight of these belong to species the nests and eggs of which are new to the Museum collection. *Psaltiriparus plumbeus* is a summer

visitor in this locality, and builds a gourd-shaped nest, with a side entrance, in the low oak-bushes, apparently somewhat in the style of *Ægithalus pendulinus*. As in that species, the eggs are pure white.

8. Berlepsch on new or rare Birds from Bogota.

[Beschreibung eines neuen Colibri und Bemerkungen über eine Collection von Vogel-bälgen aus der Umgegend von Sta. Fé de Bogota in Colombia. Von Haus v. Berlepsch. Zeitschr. f. Orn. 1887, p. 177].

Graf v. Berlepsch gives an account of a collection of about 200 bird-skins lately received by Herr Nehrkorn, of Riddagshausen, direct from Bogota. It contained a single example of a new Humming-bird, *Cyanolesbia nehrkorni*, already shortly characterized (J. f. O. 1887, p. 326), but now more fully described and figured. It also contained an example of another Humming-bird of the genus *Bourcieria*, which the author refers doubtfully to *B. assimilis*, Elliot, said to be from Ecuador, but at the same time provides with a second name, in case of need, "*B. excellens*." This is also figured. This species comes nearest to *B. prunellei*. Graf v. Berlepsch then proceeds to describe a dark variety of *Chrysolampis mosquitus* as a possibly new species, "*C. infumatus*," and to make remarks on *Pyrrhophæna iodura* and *Agyrtria viridissima terpna*. A complete list of the 91 species represented in the collection is added. In the footnotes to this list the Bogota form of *Helidoxa leadbeateri* is distinguished as *H. l. parvula*, and the Bogota form of *Chrysuronia ænone* as *C. æ. longirostris*.

9. R. Blasius on the Birds of Brunswick.

[Die Vogelwelt der Stadt Braunschweig und ihrer nächsten Umgebung. Von Dr. Rudolf Blasius. Jahresb. Ver. f. Naturw. zu Braunschweig, v. p. 59.]

Dr. Rudolf Blasius gives us an account of his long and intimate acquaintance with the birds of his native city of Brunswick and the surrounding district. A previous paper on the same subject was prepared by the same author in 1862, and printed in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' Twenty

years' close attention to the subject has enabled him to make large additions. The list now comprises the names of 216 species. One of the most interesting of these is the Great Sedge-Warbler (*Acrocephalus turdoides*), which breeds regularly in the ponds of Riddagshausen. There some years ago the Editor of this Journal had the pleasure of taking with his own hands, under the friendly guidance of the ornithologists of Brunswick, the specimens of the nest and eggs of this fine bird which are now in our National Collection.

10. R. Blasius on *Mergus anatarius*.

[*Mergus anatarius*, Eimbeck, ein Bastard zwischen *Mergus albellus*, Linné, und *Glaucion clangula*, Linné. Von Dr. Rudolf Blasius. Monatsschr. d. deutsch. Ver. z. Schutze d. Vogelw. Jahrg. xii. p. 377.]

Dr. R. Blasius gives us a full account of this singular hybrid between the Smew and the Golden-eye, of which four examples are now known. The first specimen, now in the Brunswick Museum, was obtained in 1885, and called by Eimbeck *Mergus anatarius*. A second was procured in Denmark in 1843, a third in Sweden in 1881, and a fourth has recently been described by Herr O. Wolschke, which was shot in Mecklenburg in 1865. Coloured figures are given of two of the specimens.

11. W. Blasius on *Birds from Palawan*.

[Die Vögel von Palawan. Nach den Ergebnissen der von Herrn und Frau Dr. Platen bei Puerto Princesa auf Palawan (Philippinen) im Sommer 1887 ausgeführten ornithologischen Forschungen übersichtlich zusammengestellt. Von Dr. Wilh. Blasius. Ornith., 1888, p. 301.]

This is the full text of the article referred to by Dr. W. Blasius in his letter in last year's 'Ibis' (1888, p. 372). Dr. Blasius gives an account of the collection made in Palawan by Dr. and Mrs. Platen in 1887, and sent to Herr Nehr Korn. It contains representatives of 130 species, and nearly doubles the number of Palawan birds known to the author. It is unfortunate that there should have been a "concurrency" between Dr. Blasius and Mr. Sharpe on this subject, but such things will occasionally happen. Both

writers were naturally anxious to vindicate the claims of their respective collectors to their discoveries. Besides the six new species described in the 'Braunschweigische Anzeiger,' of which Dr. Blasius has already spoken in his letter, *Turnix haynaldi* and *Carpophaga ænea palawanensis* are now described as new for the first time.

12. *W. Blasius on Birds from Great Sanghir.*

[Vögel von Gross-Sanghir. Von Dr. Willh. Blasius. Braunschweigische Anzeiger, 1888, no. 9, Jan. 11th.]

Dr. W. Blasius kindly sends us a copy of the 'Braunschweigische Anzeiger' for Jan. 11th, 1888. The report there given of the sitting of the "Verein für Naturwissenschaft" on Jan. 5th contains short characters of three new species of birds discovered by Dr. and Mrs. Platen in the island of Great Sanghir. These are named *Ninox macroptera*, *Zosterops nehrkorni*, and *Criniger platenæ*.

Dr. Blasius has since published an elaborate memoir on all the birds obtained by Dr. and Mrs. Platen in the Sanghir Islands. See 'Ornis,' 1888, p. 527, "Die Vögel von Gross-Sanghir."

13. *Brusina on the Birds of Croatia.*

[Ornitološke bilježke za Hrvatsku Faunu. Svežanj Prvi. Sakupio S. Brusina. Glasnika hrv. Naravoslovnoga Društva. (Soc. Hist.-Nat. Croatica, iii. p. 129.).]

We regret that ignorance of the Slavonic languages prevents us from saying more than that this paper seems to refer mainly to the occurrence of three species in Croatia, namely, *Syrrhaptes paradoxus*, *Fratercula arctica*, and *Alca torda*.

14. *Forbes on Attempts to reach the Owen Stanley Peak.*

[On Attempts to reach the Owen Stanley Peak: a Report to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society on the New Guinea Expedition. By Henry O. Forbes. (Reprinted from the Scottish Geographical Magazine for August 1888.).]

All persons interested in New Guinea (amongst whom all

ornithologists must be included) will read with interest Mr. Forbes's account of his unfortunately unsuccessful efforts to reach the summits of the Owen Stanley range. Now, at all events, we have for the first time something like a correct map of the territory adjacent to the future capital of our new Colony. We can see the position of the Warirata cliffs of the Astrolabe range, where "the traveller first heard the curious and distinctive *wauk* of Raggi's Paradise-bird, and the more melodious and whistle-like call of the lovely King-bird." We can also see the exact position of Sogeri, where his collection of birds was made, and where he resided from October 1885 to May 1886.

15. *J. G. on the Birds of the Stonyhurst District.*

[Birds of the Stonyhurst District. By J. G. Stonyhurst Magazine, No. xxxix., July 1888.]

We have been favoured by some unknown friend with a copy of the 'Stonyhurst Magazine' for July last. It contains an article by "J. G." on the birds that have occurred within 10 miles of Stonyhurst—a district shown exactly in the neat little map which accompanies it. The species treated of are 157 in number. The nomenclature of the B. O. U. list is adhered to.

16. *Hartlaub on Bird-collecting during Scientific Expeditions.*

[Vögel. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Aus Neumayer's Anleit. z. wissenschaftl. Beobachtung. auf Reisen. Zweite Aufl. Berlin: 1888.]

Dr. Hartlaub has prepared the chapter relating to the collection and observation of birds for the second edition of Dr. Neumayer's 'Traveller's Guide to Scientific Observations,' in a way which, we trust, will induce many travellers of the Fatherland to take up our favourite subject. A list of the principal handy works on the birds of different countries is appended.

17. *Hartlaub on Nigrita arnaudi.*

[Aus den ornithologischen Tagebüchern Dr. Emin Pascha's. (Mitgetheilt von Dr. G. Hartlaub.) J. f. O. 1887, p. 310.]

Dr. Hartlaub has extracted from Emin Pasha's ornitho-

logical journal some interesting notes on the life and breeding-habits of a Weaver-bird (*Nigrita arnaudi*), concerning which Henglin (Ornith. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 341) seems to have fallen into some errors. These, being derived from Emin Pasha's own observations, must be deemed authentic.

18. *Kempen on Abnormal Plumages in Birds.*

[Sur une série de Mammifères et d'Oiseaux d'Europe présentant des Anomalies ou des Variétés de coloration. Par Ch. van Kempen. Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1888, p. 103.]

M. Kempen gives an account of the specimens of about 70 European species of birds in his collection, which are albinos or partly albinos, or otherwise abnormally coloured.

19. *Lawrence on a new Thrush.*

[Description of a new Species of Bird of the Genus *Catharus* from Ecuador. By G. N. Lawrence. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 503.]

A Thrush of the genus *Catharus* from Cayanded, Western Ecuador, presented to Mr. Lawrence by Graf v. Berlepsch, and determined by him as *C. fuscater*, Lafr., is described as new and named *C. berlepschi*.

20. *Meyer and Helm's Report on the Ornithological Observing-Stations for Saxony for 1887.*

[III. Jahresbericht (1887) der ornithologischen Beobachtungstationen im Königreich Sachsen, bearbeitet von Dr. A. B. Meyer und von Dr. F. Helm. Abh. u. Bericht d. k. zool. u. anthropol.-ethnograph. Mus. Dresden, 1888-89.]

This, we think, must be allowed to be one of the most complete and elaborate reports of the kind yet issued, and to reflect great credit on the care and patience of its compilers. It begins with lists of 134 observers who contributed notices for 1887, and of 17 who had observed in 1886 but not in 1887, and of 91 new observers. The "General Part," which follows, describes the 122 stations at which observations were made, and gives a summary account of the weather.

The "Special Part" takes each species individually, one

after the other, and summarizes the observations on it made by the various observers. Finally, we have a special appendix on the occurrences of *Syrnhaptes paradoxus* in Europe in 1888. As we have said before (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 406), it is a pleasure to turn to such a well-ordered report as this, where reference to what is required is made so easy. We rather regret, however, that the map is not repeated.

21. *Sir E. Newton's Presidential Address.*

[Address, by the President, Sir Edward Newton, to the Members of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. *Trans. Norf. and Norw. Nat. Soc.* iv. p. 537.]

After the ordinary topics of a presidential address have been disposed of, Sir Edward Newton discusses a subject that will greatly interest most of his brother Members of the B. O. U.,—the disappearance of our native *Accipitres*. "It is plain" to him that "in this island the extirpation of the smaller birds of prey is almost as fully accomplished as was that of the larger kinds some years ago." This leads him on to the kindred question of the extinction of certain species of birds in oceanic islands, and especially in the Mascarene group, where he was so long resident. Most interesting details are given on this subject, and as an appendix we have a complete "list of the birds of the Mascarene Islands, including the Seychelles." The distribution of the species in the different islands is shown in every case, and the extinct and peculiar species are designated, as well as those of accidental occurrence. This very useful list is, we trust, but the precursor of a still more useful memoir on the Mascarene ornithology, which, if we are correctly informed, is in a forward state.

22. *Picaglia on Pallas's Sand Grouse in Italy.*

[Intorno ad una recente invasione del *Syrnhaptes paradoxus*, Ill., [per] Luigi Picaglia. *Il Panaro*, Ann. xxvii. Num. 160. Modena, 11 June, 1888.]

Prof. Picaglia records the occurrence of a male specimen

of *Syrhaptus paradoxus* in May last in the province of Mantua.

23. *Prejevalsky's Fourth Journey.*

[Retvertoye putshestviye v tsentrailnoi Azii Ot Kiaktii na istoki joltoi réki, izslédovaniye Sévernoi okrainii Tibeta, i put cherez Lob-nor pv basseinu Tarima.

A Fourth Journey into Central Asia, from Kiakhta to the Sources of the Yellow River, Exploration of the Northern Borderland of Tibet, and a Route *viâ* Lob-nor along the Basin of the Tarim. By N. M. Prejevalsky, with 3 maps, 29 photographs, and 3 woodcuts; published by the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. St. Petersburg: 1888.]

In the present volume General Prejevalsky, whose untimely death we must all much deplore, continues his observations on the central and most remote parts of the continent of Asia. His fourth expedition differed in no essential particular from those previously undertaken by him, and his description again takes the form of a narrative. He has, however, added two chapters, one at the beginning and one at the end of his book, which have no immediate reference to his travels. In the former of these he treats of the method of travel adopted by him on his expeditions; the second contains his conclusions, more or less epitomized, on the inhabitants of Central Asia.

As on previous occasions, the author has been assisted in preparing for publication and classifying the scientific results of his observations by several learned specialists. His latitudes and longitudes have been computed at Pulkova by V. K. Dellen; his altitudes by General Scharnhorst; his maps have been drawn at the military topographical department of the Staff Corps; the drawings and photographs of his companion, Robarofsky, have been photographed by M. Klassen; his geological collections have been determined by Professor Inostrantsef; the plants by Academician C. I. Maximovitch; the mammalia by E. A. Büchner, Curator of the Zoological Museum of the Academy of Sciences; the reptilia by Academician A. A. Strauch; and the fishes by Assistant-curator Hertsenstein.

Casting our eyes over the chapter-headings, we find many

names of places which appeared in his former books:—"Mongolia and the Country of the Tangutans," "From Kuldja to Lob-nor," and, in the description of his third journey into Central Asia, "From Zaisan *viâ* Hami to Tibet" &c. (as yet untranslated). He again crosses the great Gobi and describes its characteristics and the life of the Mongols. He passes through the province of Kan-suh to Koko-nor and Tsaidam, traces the sources of the Hoang-ko in lakes Jaring-nor and Oring-nor, leads his Cossacks once more across the salt desert of Tsaidam and approaches the great mountains, previously unexplored, which support the high plateaux of Northern Tibet. Having left the Tibetan mountains, the author revisits Lob-nor and the basin of the Tarim, describing at some length the southern confines of the Tarim desert, the mountains near Keria, and his homeward route to the Thian-Shan, *viâ* Khoten and Aksu.

Frequent references to the birds observed during his journey occur throughout the work (see pp. 131, 133, 149, 164, 223, &c.).

24. Ramsay's List of Australian Birds.

[Tabular List of all the Australian Birds at present known to the Author, showing the Distribution of the Species over the Continent of Australia and adjacent Islands. By E. P. Ramsay. Sm. 4to. Sydney: 1888.]

Gould's 'Handbook' gave the number of species of birds known to be found in Australia in 1865 as 672. Mr. Ramsay's 'Tabular List' now increases the Australian ornis to 760 species, omitting doubtful ones. Among the 88 additional species it is curious that one only belongs to a new genus, namely, *Scenopæus dentirostris*, a very distinct form of Bower-birds. Mr. Ramsay's tables show the distribution of the species over Australia very clearly, and his map is likewise of much value. Numerous notes and references are added. We are glad to see it announced in the Preface that the author has in preparation a complete work on the birds of Australia. So far as we can make out, the following species of birds are named for the first time in this list:—*Platycercus pennanti*, var. *nigrescens*, from Queensland; *Ædicne-*

mus longipes (if distinct from *Æ. grallarius*), from N.W. Australia, and *Ninox albaria*, from Lord Howe's Island, most nearly allied to *N. novæ-zelandiæ*.

25. *Regalia on the Claws of Birds.*

[Unghie ai diti I. e II. della Mano in Uccelli italiani, [per] E. Regalia. Processo Verbale d. Soc. Toscana d. Sci. Nat. 1888, p. 86.]

We are glad to find another naturalist working at the claws of the bird's digit, on which subject much more investigation is still required. Sig. Regalia divides claw-bearing birds into three categories:—(1) Those with a claw on the pollex only; (2) Those with a claw on the index only; (3) Those with a claw on the pollex and index. He has examined only Italian species. His second category is based on a somewhat doubtful case of a Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) in which the last phalanx of the second digit had a small mass of substance with the "aspetto di un' unghia." The third category is of great interest, although we cannot quite agree with the author's statement that the existence of a claw on the second digit has hitherto been recognized only in the Ratitæ. The following Italian birds are given as having claws, more or less developed, on the pollex and index:—*Phanicopterus roseus*, *Nettion crecca*, *Fulix ferina*, *Grus communis* (?), *Totanus fuscus*, *T. nebularius*, *Gallinago caelestis*, *Colymbus arcticus*, *C. septentrionalis*, and *Podiceps fluviatilis*. Sig. Regalia seems not to be acquainted with our articles on the claws and spurs of birds published in this Journal for 1886 (pp. 147 & 300).

26. *Report of the Ornithologist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

[Report of the Ornithologist, C. Hart Merriam, M.D., for the year 1887. From the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1887. 8vo. Washington: 1888.]

Dr. C. Hart Merriam's second annual Report consists of a short general statement of the work done in the division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture, and of a number of special reports annexed thereto. The general work performed in 1887 consisted

chiefly in the collection of facts to show the relations of certain birds and mammals to agriculture, horticulture, and forestry, and in preparing for publication memoirs on the English Sparrow and on Bird-Migration in the Mississippi Valley. The special reports are:—(1) On the Food of Hawks and Owls; (2) On Experiments on Poisons used for the purpose of destroying Bird-life; (3) On some of the Results of a Trip through Minnesota and Dakota; and (4) On the Depredations caused by Blackbirds and Gophers in Iowa and Minnesota. Of these No. 3 is by Mr. V. Bailey, all the rest by Dr. A. K. Fisher. The accounts given of the examination of the stomachs of more than 1000 Hawks and Owls show some very interesting results. Taking them as a whole, it will be seen that out of 983 specimens of stomachs of these birds containing food, which were examined, no less than 528 (64.4 per cent.) contained the remains of mice only, and 241 of insects only. The value of the Accipitres and Striges to mankind is thus pretty evident at a glance.

The so-called "Blackbirds," of the depredations of which the farmers of Dakota and Minnesota complain, appear to be mostly *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* and *Agelaius phœniceus*. Frankland's Gull (*Larus franklini*) in Dakota is stated to feed largely on grasshoppers.

27. *Report of the Coburg Society for the Protection of Plants and Animals.*

[Erster Bericht über die Thätigkeit des Thier- u. Pflanzenschutz-Vereins für das Herzogthum Coburg. 8vo. Coburg: 1888.]

We are pleased to see that the Coburghers have formed a Union for the protection of their native plants and animals and to receive a copy of their first Report. Among the appendices is a list of the native birds, prepared by Herr A. Hoffman and Dr. E. Baldamus.

28. *Report of the Committee on Observing-Stations for German Birds.*

[X. Jahresbericht (1885) des Ausschusses für Beobachtungsstationen der Vögel Deutschlands. J. f. O. 1887, p. 337.]

The tenth Report of the Committee for carrying on the

work of observation of birds in the different parts of the German Empire is a bulky treatise of some 300 pages, which will, no doubt, require the close attention of students of the European ornithology. Mr. Paul Matschie's appended remarks on the vexed question of the distribution of *Corvus corone*, *C. cornix*, and *C. frugilegus* in Northern Germany, which are illustrated by a well-executed map, are of special interest.

29. Ridgway on the Genus *Dendrocincla*.

[A Review of the Genus *Dendrocincla*, Gray. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 488.]

Mr. Ridgway was induced to take up this difficult group in order to effect the determination of two species of *Dendrocincla*, of which specimens were contained in a small collection from the Lower Amazons, and has had the advantage of the examination of the types in the Lafresnaye Collection, now in the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. Twelve species of *Dendrocincla* are recognized, of which three are now described for the first time, namely, *D. lafresnaye*i (Upper Amazons?), and *D. rufo-olivacea* and *D. castanoptera* from Diamantina, Lower Amazons. Besides these twelve species, three others are mentioned as "not examined."

30. Ridgway on *Catharus berlepschi*.

[Remarks on *Catharus berlepschi*, Lawr. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 504.]

Mr. Ridgway confirms the distinctness of *Catharus berlepschi*, Lawrence (v. s.), from *C. fuscater*, Lafr., of which he has examined the "type" from Colombia and a good series from Costa Rica.

31. Ridgway on new Central-American Birds.

[Descriptions of some new Species and Subspecies of Birds from Middle America. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 505.]

Mr. Ridgway describes as new *Catharus fumosus* from

Costa Rica and Veragua, *Minus gracilis leucophæus* from Cozumel, *Harporhynchus longirostris sennetti* from Texas, *Campylorhynchus castaneus* from Guatemala and Honduras, *Thryothorus rufalbus castanonotus* from Nicaragua and Colombia, *Microcerculus daulias* from Costa Rica, *Dendroornis lawrancei* from Panama, and *D. lawrencii costaricensis* from Costa Rica.

32. Ridgway on the Generic Name *Uropsila*.

[Note on the Generic Name *Uropsila*, Sci. & Salv. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 511.]

Mr. Ridgway proposes to alter the generic term *Uropsila* to *Hemiura*, because *Uropsilus* was used previously for a genus of mammals. If this be necessary, can we continue to employ *Picus* and *Pica* (as Mr. Ridgway does himself) and many other terms which nearly resemble one another?

33. Ridgway on new Birds from the Lower Amazons.

[Descriptions of new Species and Genera of Birds from the Lower Amazon. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 516.]

These new species are based on specimens contained in a collection made by Mr. C. B. Riker, of New York, at Diamantina, near Santarem, on the Lower Amazons. They are named *Thryothorus herberti*, *Thryophilus tænioptera*, *Cyphorhinus griseolateralis*, *Colopteryx* (gen. nov., loco *Colopteri prius usitati*) *inornatus*, *Ornithion napæum*, *Tyrannulus reguloides*, *Attila viridescens*, *Thamnophilus inornatus*, *Heterocnemis* (?) *hypoleuca*, *Dichrozona* (gen. nov. ex fam. Formicariidarum) *zononota*, *Phlogopsis bowmani*, *Rhegmatorhina* (gen. nov. ex fam. Formicariidarum) *gymnops*, *Dendroornis fraterculus*, *Dendrocolaptes obsoletus*, and *Zenaida jessiae*.

34. Ridgway on the Genus *Psittacula*.

[A Review of the Genus *Psittacula* of Brisson. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 529.]

Mr. Ridgway's review of the genus *Psittacula* commences

with some general remarks on the vexed question of the variation of the plumage in the sexes and ages of these little Parrots. His "key to the species," which follows, contains short characters by which both sexes of the eleven species and subspecies may be recognized. Of these four are now described as new, namely:—*Psittacula passerina vivida*, from Bahia; *P. insularis*, from the Tres Marias Islands; *P. exquisita*, from Colombia; and *P. deliciosa*, from Diamantina, Lower Amazons. Dr. Hartlaub has pointed out (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 493) that Mr. Ridgway appears to have overlooked* his lately-published article on *Psittaculæ* (*P. Z. S.* 1885, p. 614), and that *P. exquisita*, Ridgway = *P. spengeli*, Hartl., and *P. deliciosa*, Ridgw. = *P. cyanochlora*, Hartl.† *P. insularis* ("similar to *P. cyanopygia*, but larger and darker") can hardly be considered more than a subspecies.

35. Ridgway on Birds from the Caribbean Islands and Honduras.

[Catalogue of a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Chas. H. Townsend on Islands in the Caribbean Sea and in Honduras. By Robert Ridgway. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 1887, p. 572.]

The collection was made in the islands of Grand Cayman, Swan Island, and Ruatan, and in two localities in Honduras. In Grand Cayman, 175 miles south of Cuba, which had been already visited by Mr. Cory's collector in 1886, examples of thirteen species were obtained. Of these *Dendræca auricapilla* (a form of *D. petechia*) is described as a new species, and *Columbigallina passerina insularis* as a new subspecies. In Swan Island, which lies 200 miles south-west of Grand Cayman, examples of thirty species were found. Of these *Contopus vicinus* (allied to *C. virens*) and *Butorides saturatus* (like *B. virescens*, but darker!) are described as new. In Ruatan only three species were met with. At Truxillo, in Honduras, examples of 56 species were procured. Of these Mr. Ridgway separates a *Thamnophilus* (of the *doliatus* section) as *T. intermedius*, a *Centurus* as *C. santacruzianus pauper*, subsp. nov., and a Pigeon of the genus *Engyptila*, allied to

* Cf. 'Auk,' 1888, p. 460.

E. rufinucha, as *E. vinaceiventris*; the rest are mostly well-known Central-American species. On the Segovia River, Honduras, Mr. Townsend made a larger collection, embracing examples of 99 species, of which the following are described as new :—*Pitylus poliogaster scapularis*, *Aimophila rufescens discolor* (if different from *A. rufescens* ?), *Sturnella magna inexpectata*, *Thalurania townsendi*, *Colinus nigrogularis segoviensis*, *Porzana exilis vagans*, and *Tigrisoma excellens*. In a footnote a new Pigeon, *Columba purpureo-tincta*, is based on a skin from Demerara in the U.S. National Museum, which has hitherto been referred to *C. nigrorostris*.

36. Ridgway on a new *Psaltriparus*.

[Description of a new *Psaltriparus* from Southern Arizona. By Robert Ridgway. Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1887, p. 697.]

Psaltriparus santaritæ, from Southern Arizona, is similar to *P. plumbeus*, but smaller, and the male has a more or less distinct blackish line along the sides of the occiput, as in the female of *P. lloydi*.

37. Salvadori on Bonaparte's 'Fauna Italica.'

[Le date della pubblicazione della 'Iconografia della Fauna Italica' del Bonaparte ed Indice delle specie illustrate in detta opera per Tommaso Salvadori. Boll. d. Mus. d. Zool. e. Anat. Comp. d. R. Univ. d. Torino, vol. iii. n. 48.]

In 1888 Count Salvadori favoured this Journal with a useful list of the exact dates of publication of the plates of birds issued in the different fascicules of Bonaparte's 'Iconografia della Fauna Italica' (*Ibis*, 1888, p. 320), concerning which there had been previously many inexact statements made. In the present paper the information is extended to the other classes of vertebrates, and an alphabetical Index is added of all the species figured in Bonaparte's work, so that there is no longer any excuse for error in quotations on this subject.

38. *Salvadori on the Occurrence of Pallas's Sand Grouse in Italy.*

[Il Sirratte in Italia nella primavera del 1888 per Tommaso Salvadori Boll. Mus. d. Zool. e. Anat. Comp. d. R. Univ. d. Torino, vol. iii. n. 47.]

Count Salvadori puts together in this useful paper the records of the occurrences of *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* in Italy in April and May 1888. The first instance observed was on April 24th, at Montagnena, near Padua, the last at Orvieto, on May 28th. About 74 individuals altogether were noticed on fifteen occasions. Most of the occurrences took place in the north-east of Italy—Venetia, Romagna, and the Marches,—but two of them were on the western slope. The most southern occurrence noted was at Fano, on the Adriatic. The irruption does not appear to have reached Lombardy and Piedmont.

39. *Salvadori on Birds from Shoa and Harar.*

[Uccelli dello Scioa e dell' Harar raccolti dal Dott. Vincenzo Ragazzi. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. ser. 2, vi. p. 525.]

The collection here reported on was made by Dr. Ragazzi in Shoa and on the road from Ankoher to Harar in 1886 and 1887. The 86 specimens which it contains are referable to 62 species, of which 13 were not represented in previous collections of Antinori and Ragazzi, and 11 are new to Shoa. Two species of Francolin are described as new to science under the names *Francolinus spilogaster* and *F. castaneicollis*. Another interesting species, of which two specimens are in the series, is the small Bustard, *Lophotis gindiana* (Oust.), which has also been described by Dr. Cabanis as *Otis fulvicrista*.

40. *Salvadori and Giglioli on the Birds of the Voyage of the 'Vettor Pisani.'*

[Uccelli raccolti durante il Viaggio della Corvetta "Vettor Pisani" negli anni 1879, 1880 e 1881, descritti da T. Salvadori ed E. H. Giglioli. Mem. R. Accad. Sci. Torino, ser. 2, tom. xxxix. p. 99.]

This memoir gives a complete account of the specimens of birds collected by Count Camillo Candiani di Olivola and

other officers of the Italian corvette 'Vettor Pisani,' under the command of Prince Thomas, Duke of Genoa, during a voyage to Eastern Asia in 1879-81. The localities at which collections were made were:—(1) Durderi, on the Somali coast; (2) Maldive Islands; (3) Pulo-Pinang; (4) Singapore; (5) Olga Bay, Vladivostock, and Possiet Bay, N.E. Asia; (6) Japan; (7) China; (8) Manila; (9) Corea; (10) Bangkok; and (11) Straits of Malacca. At these different places 312 specimens altogether were obtained, which are referred to 168 species. Amongst these *Lanius dorsalis* and *Amydrus blythi* of Somaliland, and *Carine pulchra* of Bangkok, may be regarded as of special interest. But the gems of the collection were undoubtedly two specimens of *Cygnus davidi*, which, along with the other specimens from Corea and Mantchuria, have been already described by the same authors in a communication to the Zoological Society of London*.

41. Shufeldt on the Osteology of *Sturnella*.

[On the Skeleton in the Genus *Sturnella*, with Osteological Notes upon other North-American *Icteridæ* and the *Corvidæ*. By R. W. Shufeldt. Journ. Anat. and Phys. xxii. p. 309.]

In this memoir Dr. Shufeldt discusses at some length the osteology of *Sturnella* and the various resemblances it presents to other *Icteridæ* and American *Corvidæ*. He concludes that *Sturnella* "undoubtedly belongs to the *Icteridæ*," and within that family "probably has its nearest ally in *Xanthocephalus*." He maintains that *Molothrus*, usually associated with the *Icteridæ*, "is a genus of Finches, and should be placed in the family *Fringillidæ*," and that *Dolichonyx*, no doubt, belongs there too. The memoir is illustrated by two well-executed plates with numerous figures.

42. Shufeldt on the Osteology of *Porzana carolina*.

[Osteology of *Porzana carolina* (the Carolina Rail). By R. W. Shufeldt. Journ. Comp. Med. and Surg., July 1888.]

Dr. Shufeldt describes, in his usual accurate and exhaustive

* See P. Z. S. 1887, p. 580.

manner, the osseous structure of the Carolina Rail, and gives excellently drawn illustrations of the various bones. It is much to be wished that the author's numerous papers on the osteology of American birds will be eventually reissued in a connected form.

43, 44. *Sousa on Additions to the Birds of Angola.*

[Aves de Angola da Exploração do Sr. José d'Anchieta por José Augusto de Sousa. *Jorn. Acad. R. d. Sci. de Lisboa*, Num. xlviii. p. 216.]

Contribution pour la Faune Ornithologique d'Angola par José Augusto de Sousa. *Op. cit.* p. 233.]

M. de Sousa's articles are based upon a collection 64 specimens made by the well-known collector Anchieta in July, August, and September, 1887. Of the 49 species to which the specimens are referred, one, *Monticola angolensis*, is described as new. It was referred to *M. brevipes* by Barboza du Bocage in his 'Ornithologie d'Angola,' as only one immature specimen had then been received. M. d'Anchieta has sent home a large series since that period.

45. *Stejneger on the Birds of the Idzu Islands.*

[On a Collection of Birds made by Mr. M. Namiye in the Islands of Idzu, Japan. By Leonhard Stejneger. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 1887, p. 482.]

The Idzu Islands, situated south of Yokohama, off the coast of Japan, were visited by Mr. Namiye in April and May 1887. Specimens were obtained belonging to 22 species, amongst which is a new Thrush named *Turdus celænops*, most nearly related to *T. chrysolaus*. The remainder are known Japanese species.

46. *Stejneger on Japanese Birds.*

[Review of Japanese Birds.—VII. The Creepers. By L. Stejneger. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 1887, p. 606.]

Dr. Stejneger continues his useful papers on Japanese birds, and now takes up the *Certhiæ*, of which he recognizes two forms in Japan, supposed to be separated by "Blakis-

ton's Line." These he terms *C. familiaris* and *C. familiaris scandulaca*. But the series of specimens in the U.S. Nat. Museum is "very scant," and additional examples are much wanted.

47. *Taczanowski on the Birds of Poland.*

[Liste des Oiseaux observés depuis cinquante ans dans le Royaume de Pologne. Par L. Taczanowski. Ornith., iv. p. 441.]

M. Taczanowski's article on the birds of the Kingdom of Poland is the result of fifty years' close attention to this subject, and supplies us with notes on 303 species known to belong to the avifauna of that country. Such Eastern species as *Aquila neria* and *A. clanga*, *Lusciola philomela*, *Erythrosterne parva*, *Lanius minor*, and *Carpodacus erythrurus*, which we hardly know in Western Europe, are found in Poland in more or less abundance. We are pleased to observe that *Otis tarda* and *Gallinago major* are still to be found breeding there in several localities.

48. *Turner on the Birds of Alaska.*

[Contributions to the Natural History of Alaska. Results of Investigations made chiefly in the Yukon District and the Aleutian Islands. By L. M. Turner. 4to. Washington: 1886.]

Mr. L. M. Turner's field-notes on the birds of Alaska are very full and will be read with great interest by students of the arctic avifauna. It is not, however, explained why, if, as it appears, they were prepared and transmitted to headquarters in 1882, and printed in 1886, it should have taken two more years to issue them to the public.

Mr. Turner's observations were made in connection with his work under the U.S. Signal Corps. From May 1874 to July 1877 he was at St. Michael's, whence he returned to Washington. In May 1878 he again took service with the Signal Corps, and was resident at Unalashka and at other stations in the Aleutian Islands until July 1881.

The notes on the birds are, except in few instances, the results of Mr. Turner's own observations. Those on the Alcidae and Laridae are very full and contain much novel

information. The following species are figured :—*Simorhynchus pygmæus*, *Brachyrhamphus kittlitzii*, *Lagopus rupestris atkhensis* ♂ et ♀, *Ulula cinerea lapponica*, *Surnia ulula*, *Loxia leucoptera* in first plumage, *Pyrhula cassini* ♀, *Leucosticte griseinucha*, *Motacilla ocularis*, *Troglodytes alasensis*, *Anthus cervinus* in winter plumage, *Parus hudsonicus* and *P. cinctus obtectus*. A Yellow Wagtail (*Budytes flavus leucostriatus*) is a regular summer visitor to the Alaskan littoral, arriving about June 12th and departing about Sept. 21st and breeding. The Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla ocularis*) was only once obtained at Unalashka, in May.

To his special notes Mr. Turner appends a complete list of the birds of Alaska, as yet "authentically known and recognized."

XII.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

WE have received the following letters addressed to the Editor of 'The Ibis':—

Northrepps, September 1888.

SIR,—M. Boucard, of Paris, has recently sent me five specimens of *Buteo swainsoni*, killed during the months of October and November in the interior of Venezuela, three of which, two melanistic, and one partially so, I have retained for the Norwich Museum, which previously possessed one wholly and two partly melanistic examples of this species.

All these specimens are dark brown, *but not blackish*, the tint of brown varying from "seal-brown" No. 1 to "sepia-brown" No. 2, in plate 3 of Ridgway's 'Nomenclature of Colour.'

This coloration probably agrees with the "brun fuligineux" which has been described by M. Oustalet as the prevailing colour of the type specimen of *Buteo unicolor* of D'Orbigny. M. Oustalet's description of this type, quoted by Mr. Salvin in 'The Ibis,' 1886, p. 73, appears to me to agree more closely with the melanistic phase of *Buteo swainsoni* than it does with the two blackish-brown Buzzards collected by Mr.